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Washington, D.C. 20231

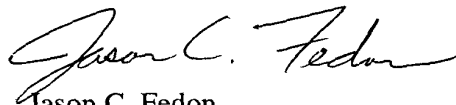
Information Disclosure Statement. The attached list of citations on PTO Form 1449 is being submitted under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.56 and §1.97 in order to comply with the duty of disclosure. Their inclusion herein should not, however, be construed as an admission that any particular cited reference is effective prior art or that it discloses or renders obvious any aspect of the claimed invention. Copies of each are enclosed, except for those references already part of the filewrapper. This statement is being filed with the required Certification and without any fee, in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1) and (2), i.e., before a Final Action under 37 CFR §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR §1.311.

Serial No.: 09/925,778

Group Art Unit No.: Unknown

Statement of Certification. The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, or

Respectfully submitted,



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